

# Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 26 NO 1

**SPRING 2012** 

# Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Board of Supervisors



INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

# 68th Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2012

**Outstanding Farmer Awards** 

Election at FCSWCD office from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Election at Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Poster Contest **Awards** 

Knights of Columbus Hall Highway 50 & Clearview Drive Union, MO

Entertainment

No Reservations Are Necessary!

Attendance Prizes

John Ag Busch, Chairman ha R Busil

Paniel Brunjes, Vice-Chairman

Bernard Laune, Member

Matthew Herring, Secretar

# SECTION OMITTED

### RADISHES - A COVER CROP?



Cover crops are important to many crop farmers. Most cover crops protect the soil from erosion and add nutrients in the ground for the next planting. Commonly used cover crops are rye and clover, but white radish is rapidly becoming popular in our region. Forage or tillage radish can improve the soil and environment while helping growers avoid many problems traditionally associated with cover crops. Forage radish has taproots that can grow several feet deep, boring holes into the ground and loosening the soil, hence the nickname "tillage radishes."

Forage (tillage) radishes grow deep roots that penetrate many layers of compacted soil. The thin lower part of the taproot will reach 6 feet and the thick fleshy part will get 12 to 20 inches long, including 2 to 6 inches above ground. This creates a vertical hole and a zone of weakness that breaks up the surface soil compaction and improves soil tillage. After the cover crop dies in the winter the roots decompose and those open root channels can be used by subsequent crop roots to grow through compacted soil layers. This process is known as "bio-drilling." Bio-drilling improves root access to water in the subsoil and makes crops more resilient under drought conditions.

Forage radishes capture nitrogen from the topsoil and from the deep soil layers in the fall. The stored nitrogen is found in the tissue near the soil surface. When the forage radish dies it decomposes rapidly and releases the nitrogen which reduces the need for nitrogen fertilizer in the spring. In addition, a good forage radish cover crop will add significant quantities of organic material to the soil.

Forage radishes help reduces erosion. Ideally, the canopy of the forage radish intercepts rain, preventing soil erosion during the spring and the summer. Even after it is killed, the decomposing residue protects soil from eroding. One farmer said, "In spring, after surface residues have fully decomposed, runoff and erosion are reduced because of the many holes left behind from the large taproots. Rainwater goes into the holes, eliminating runoff and trapping sediment before it leaves the field."



By Stephen S. Sparks, District Technician



### NOMINATED CANDIDATES ANNOUNCEMENT FRANKLIN COUNTY SWCD BOARD ELECTION

Let it be known that the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an election for one supervisor in each of two different territories in the county. Territory I includes Boles, Calvey and Prairie Townships and Territory III includes Boone and Meramec Townships. The election will take place on March 15, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District Office, USDA Service Center Building in Union and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Union. If you need directions you can call the district at 636-583-2303 extension 3.

Each landowner in the district is allowed one vote per area. Please present at least one form of photo identification to vote.

Nominating committees for the election have submitted names of the following qualified candidates:

Territory I (Townships: Boles, Calvey & Prairie)

Daniel Brunjes, Boles Township

Bill McLaren, Calvey Township

<u>Territory III (Townships: Boone & Meramec)</u>
Carl Danz, Boone Township
Christine Smith, Meramec Township

Any landowner that was not nominated by the nominating committee may have their name added to the ballot, if they reside in one of the two territories where an election is to be held. They must meet the qualifications to be a board supervisor and have secured a petition of at least ten (10) signatures of land representatives in the territory they wish to represent. The petition must be submitted to the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, at least ten (10) days before the election date listed above.

Supervisors manage the administration of district policies and programs, as well as district personnel and funds. The district is supported by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax. For additional information on the district election, contact the district office at:

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1004 Vondera Avenue, Union, MO 63084, 636-583-2303 ext. 3, lori.nowak@swcd.mo.gov

### POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



The Missouri Department of Conservation will be hosting a free pond management workshop on Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at East Central College's Training Center in Union. Workshop topics will include fish stocking and management, aquatic vegetation management, watershed management and wildlife management. Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited so please RSVP to Lori Nowak at the FCSWCD office at 636-583-2303 extension 3 by March 16, 2012.

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

John A. Busch, Chairman Daniel Brunjes, Vice Chairman Bernard Laune, Member Carl Danz, Treasurer Matthew Herring, Secretary

1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084 636-583-2303 • 1-800-583-3584

The Franklin County Conservation District was organized in 1944 with a primary objective to solve soil and water conservation problems. The District, upon request, aids in planning and applying appropriate land use and conservation treatment measures.

#### OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

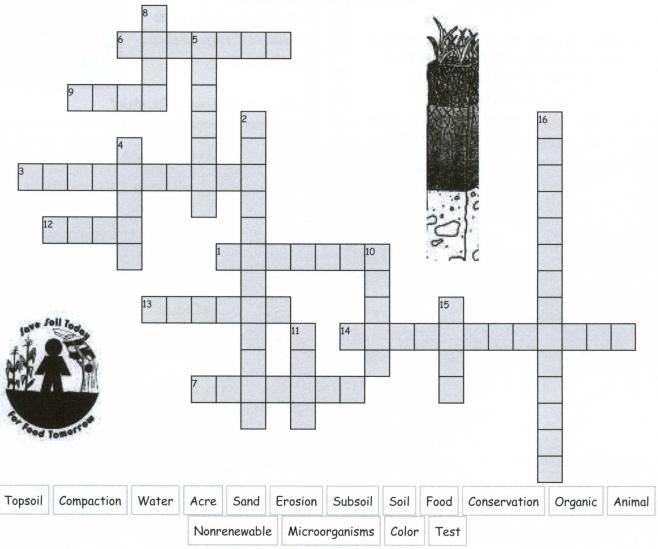
Lori Nowak, District Clerk, FCSWCD Stephen Sparks, District Technician, FCSWCD David Menke, Info/Education Specialist, FCSWCD

Rhonda Davault, District Conservationist, NRCS Leann Schmidt, Soil Conservationist, NRCS Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS Deb Frazier, ACES enrollee, NRCS

Lia Heppermann, Private Land Conservationist, MDC

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### SOIL SMARTS



#### Across:

- Fungi and bacteria help break down \_\_\_\_\_ matter in soil.
- 3. The amount of air, water and space available to roots and soil 4. Air and \_\_\_\_\_ make up 50% of the soil.
- organisms are reduced by \_\_\_
- 6. Food grows best in \_\_\_\_\_, which is the A-Horizon.
- 7. Bare soil is susceptible to wind and water
- 9. Different sized mineral particles, such as silt, \_\_\_\_ and
- clay give soil texture.
- 12. Five tons of topsoil spread over an \_\_\_\_ is as thick as a
- 13. Five to ten tons of \_\_\_\_\_ life can live in an acre of soil.
- 14. Soil is a \_\_\_\_ resource.

- Down:
- 2. Good \_\_\_\_\_ practices can prevent erosion and save topsoil.
- 5. There are 3 different layers to soil topsoil, \_\_\_\_ and parent material.
- 8. All living things depend on the soil for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. Soil \_\_\_\_\_ is affected by organic-matter content, climate, soil drainage and minerals.
- 11. One of our most important natural resources on the earth's
- 15. A soil \_\_\_\_\_ is the key to good nutrient management
- 16. In the soil, \_\_\_\_ help in the breakdown of organic matter.

(answers on page 6)

Have you found an erosion site – OR –

Wish you had a grazing system to rotate livestock through paddocks

OR –

Need to protect a natural watering source from livestock

IF SO, CALL US AT 636-583-2303 ext 3
WE HAVE STATE COST SHARE
FUNDS TO ASSIST WITH
IMPLEMENTATION.

Stephen S. Sparks,
District Technician
wins the grand
attendance prize at the
3 day training
conference held each
year at Osage Beach,
Missouri.



Congratulations, Stephen!

#### Crossword Answers

Across: 1-Organic, 3-Compaction, 6-Topsoil, 7-Erosion, 9-Sand, 12-Acre, 13-Animal, 14-Nonrenewable

Down: 2-Conservation, 4-Water, 5-Subsoil, 8-Food, 10-Color, 11-Soil, 15-Test, 16-Microorganisms

# SECTION OMITTED

## Area IV Outstanding Farmer Spotlight Joy & Cindy Haeffner





The Area IV Outstanding Farmer award went to Joy & Cindy Haeffner. Cindy acquired the 165 acre family farm as the fourth generation owner. Together the Haeffner's own 3 separate farms within Franklin & Gasconade Counties. Their farming operation includes Braunvieh and Angus cow/calf pairs and row cropping.

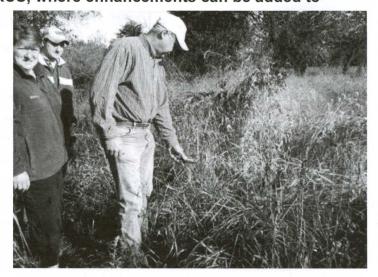
Attending grazing school has taught the Haeffner's the importance of adding legumes in pasture which helps save on fertilizer, how stockpiling grass will aid in feeding less hay, and how planting oats and turnips for winter forage will also help reduce feeding hay by allowing the livestock to strip graze.

Through the EQIP program with NRCS, the Haeffner's have enhanced their grazing system by adding high tensile cross fencing, a well, waterlines, watering facilities, establish wildlife field borders and seeding a crop field to pasture. The Haeffner's are enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program with NRCS, where enhancements can be added to

improve their existing system. Their enhancements include monitoring key grazing areas, recycling farm lubricants, resource conserving crop rotation and rotation of supplement and feeding areas.

Joy and Cindy have 2 children Jeannine and Matthew. Joy's interest are farming, hunting and fishing. Cindy is the Vice President of the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society.

Congratulations to Joy & Cindy Haeffner!



#### FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1004 Vondera Avenue Union, Missouri 63084-3132 636-583-2303 • 1-800-583-3584 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. Postage **PAID** 

Permit No. 4 Union, MO 63084



Tuesday, March 13, 2012 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Thursday, March 15, 2012 Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m., KC Hall in Union

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center Tuesday, May 8, 2012 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Monday, May 28, 2012 USDA Service Center closed Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, June 12, 2012 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Call to confirm meeting date and times. All regular meetings are open to the public



### Quarterly Quote

"Soil and water are two of our most important natural resources, producing foods, fibers, and innumerable products necessary to life and happiness"

Carl E. Sanders

# THANK YOU

The District Board appreciates the cooperation of the businesses that advertise in our newsletter and hope that our readers patronize these advertisers. The Board especially appreciates the financial assistance of the Franklin County Commission. Thanks also to our partners in conservation: NRCS, FSA, DNR, University Extension, MDC, and the county newspapers and radio stations. Assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District is available to all county residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. State Cost-share funds are available for agriculture landowners that have active erosion and are approved to complete practices that solve the problem.

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